

SECTION : 2 ELIGIBILITY

I. PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY CONCEPT

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

American Samoa will use a concept of presumptive eligibility, which does not involve individual eligibility determinations. Rather American Samoa will annually estimate the number of individuals who fall below an estimated needs or poverty level. This number of individuals will be determined to be poor and thus "presumed eligible" for Medicaid health care services with Federal Financial Participation. The number of presumed eligibles will be used in the computation of Title XIX Federal Financial Participation described in Section 6 of this Plan.

B. ANNUAL DETERMINATION OF PRESUMED ELIGIBLES REPORT

1. This will be used to report the number of presumed eligibles for Medicaid matching. It will be prepared annually and submitted to HCFA Region IX by August 15 of each year, and revised if more current data become available before the next computation period.
2. It will consist of the following four steps, along with a detailed description of the presumptive eligibility methodology used and any underlying assumptions:
 - (a) Step 1-Determine American Samoa's poverty level by family size
 - (1) List the poverty level by family size determined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget for the 48 States and Washington, D.C.
 - (2) Compute the lowest of the : (1) Ratio of American Samoa's median income to the U.S. median income; or (2) The ratio of American Samoa's median income to the median income of the State receiving the highest FMAP. The median incomes shall be from the same year closest to the year of determination where data are available for the U.S., State, and American Samoa.
 - (3) Multiply the levels in (1) by the ratio in (2) to determine the poverty levels by family size for American Samoa.
 - (4) Adjust the poverty levels computed in Step 1(a)(3) by a deflator factor which is based upon the ratio of the public assistance needs standards to the poverty level in the U.S.

(b) Step 2-Determine American Samoa's income levels

- (1) If available, census data adjusted for population and income changes up to the most current year possible will be used to determine income levels by family size.

7 (Amended effective 10/1/85)

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- (2) If current census data are not available, a survey of the previous year's tax returns will be conducted in order to determine the income levels by family size.
- (3) If neither (1) nor (2) are available, existing data will be utilized, until more current data becomes available. This data is based on a 1977 study of families by income categories and a 1980 survey of families by size.

(c) Step 3: Computation of Presumed Eligibles

Compare American Samoa's income levels established in Step 2 with American Samoan presumed poverty levels established in Step 1 to compute the number of presumed eligibles.

(d) Step 4: Determination of Total American Samoa Population

- (1) Total Population for computation year
- (2) Estimate of Total Illegal Aliens
- (3) Estimate of Total Tourists on Island

C. SUBMITTAL OF ELIGIBLE COMPUTATIONS TO THE REGIONAL OFFICE

These computations will be sent to the HCFA R.O. in the following reports:

- (1) Table 6, "Fiscal Year End Reconciliation of Estimated Versus Actual costs, "--see Section 6 for further explanation; and
- (2) In the Annual Determination of Presumed Eligibles Report described in Section B above.

II. HCFA'S APPROVAL ROLE

The HCFA Region IX Office must approve the Annual Determination of Presumed Eligibles Report prior to the award of FFP for each fiscal year.

8 (Amended effective 1/1/85)